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THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

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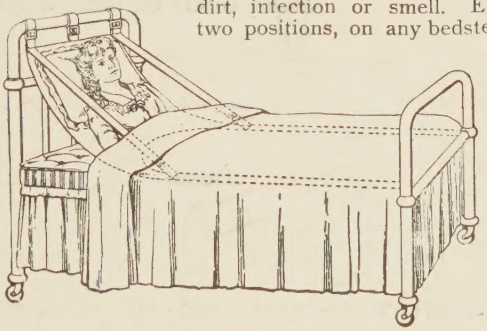

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OFFICIAL NOTICE.

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In refutation of current rumours, the Council of the above Society wish to state that no reduction has been made in the minimum 6 months' course of instruction (in force since January, 1915) for candidates entering for the Society's examination in Massage. All teachers sign an assurance to this effect for pupils entered for examination from their schools.

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Forms of application, with particulars, may be obtained on personal application to the MATRON at the Infirmary, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.; or by forwarding to her a stamped addressed envelope.

The appointment will be subject to the approval of the Local Government Board.

Selected candidates will be written to. 150

HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES ETC.—*continued.*

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HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES ETC.—*continued.*

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Applications, on forms obtainable from my Office, must reach me not later than 28th March, 1917.

By Order,
J. ALLAN BATTERSBY,
Clerk to the Guardians.

Poor Law Offices,
Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.
6th March, 1917. 143

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GEORGE SYKES,
Union Offices, York. Clerk.
142

CHARGE NURSE WANTED. Applicants must have had Medical and Surgical training in a Public Hospital maintaining a Resident Physician or House Surgeon, and be certificated. Must also be able to train Probationers.

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Applications, with copies of recent testimonials, to be addressed to the SUPERINTENDENT NURSE, East Poorhouse Hospital, Dundee. 145

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS

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157, GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON, W. *Telephone: MAYFAIR 4189.*

HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES ETC.—*continued.*

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By Order,
R. HARMAR COX,
Clerk.

Union Offices, Bridgend, Glam.,
5th March, 1917. 160

STAFF NURSES REQUIRED at EDMONTON MILITARY HOSPITAL, UPPER EDMONTON, N. Candidates must possess a three years' certificate from a recognised Training School for Nurses. Salaries at Army rates, with Board, Lodging and Washing. Uniform will be provided. Appointments tenable during the control by the Military Authorities. Forms of application may be obtained by forwarding a stamped addressed foolscap envelope to the MATRON, to whom all forms, duly filled up, must be returned. 131

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HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES ETC.—*continued.*

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The appointment will be terminable by one calendar month's notice on either side, and successful candidates will be required to live within the portions of the district respectively allotted to them.

Applications, written on forms obtainable from the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, endorsed "Health Visitor," and accompanied by copies of not more than three recent testimonials, must reach the undersigned on or before the 24th March, 1917.

W. P. NICHOLAS,
Clerk to the Council.

The Council Offices,
Pentre, Rhondda,
13th March, 1917. 148

APPOINTMENTS VACANT.

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WANTED, early in April, a HOLIDAY SISTER. Gentlewoman, fully trained. Salary £45, with Indoor Uniform. Apply personally or by letter to THE MATRON, Royal Hospital for Incurables, Putney Heath, S.W. 15. 147

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APPOINTMENTS VACANT.—*continued.*

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BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,511. SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1917. Vol. LVIII.

EDITORIAL.

THE CALL TO NATIONAL SERVICE.

There can be no doubt as to the result of the appeal to be made at the Mass Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall, on March 17th, with the object of securing recruits for the Women's Section of National Service in war. The gathering will be unique in importance, and if any evidence of this be needed it is to be found in the fact that Her Majesty the Queen has, contrary to her usual practice, consented to be present, thus emphasising her appreciation, both of the work women have already done during the war, and of the necessity for further effort. There is every prospect that every one of the 9,000 seats in the Hall will be filled.

The Speakers on this historic occasion will include Lord Derby, Secretary of State for War, Mr. Prothero, President of the Board of Argiculture, Mr. John Hodge, Minister of Labour, Mrs. H. J. Tennant and Miss Violet Markham, Directors of the Women's Section of National Service. The last two speakers will relate what women have already done in the nation's service since the outbreak of war, and what they are ready to undertake further.

In regard to trained nurses, who have rendered heroic service since the war began, the demands upon them for their own special work are so great that very few are unemployed at the present time. It is certain that there is no class whose services are more essential, and without them the loss of life, disablement and sufferings of our gallant sailors and soldiers would have been immeasurably increased.

So quietly and unobtrusively however is the work of trained nurses performed, so much is it a part of the national life in time of peace, that it is hardly realized to what an extent it has affected the issues of war. If the uniform of the trained nurse is not conspicuous at Saturday's meeting it will not be for any want of sympathy with its objects, but because it is in its rightful place at the bedside of the sick and wounded, in naval, military and civil hospitals.

Amongst others whose uniforms will testify to the extent to which women are participating in war work, are those of the munition workers, the transport workers, the women police, the post-women, the omnibus and tram conductors, and the V.A.D. workers; and, though they wear no uniform, the mothers of heroes who are fighting, and who have died, for the Empire, and the mothers of her sons to be, will meet on that historic ground in proof that of all the services man or woman can render to their country the bearing and rearing of a race of heroes, such as British sailors and soldiers have proved themselves to be, is the greatest and most far reaching in its effects. But even this has not been the limit of the patriotism of the "mothers of men." Eagerly they have offered their services whenever and wherever possible, to strengthen the hands of those in the fighting line, and, were the demand made, the majority would willingly undergo military training, so that they might go forth even into the fighting line, undaunted and unafraid. The way in which women have subjected themselves to the greatest risks, have exposed themselves to fire, and have remained cool and collected in circumstances of the gravest danger, ashore and afloat, is proof enough of this statement. But their services at home are too valuable for any such task, for as housewives it is not too much to say that the key of the present situation is in their hands.

Whatever demands are made on Saturday on the courage, endurance and fortitude of women, it is, all honour to them, a foregone conclusion that the response is sure.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

WHAT PRECAUTIONS WOULD YOU TAKE IN SAVING FOR MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION, A SPECIMEN OF URINE, A SPECIMEN OF SPUTUM, A SPECIMEN OF FÆCES?

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss E. Helen Gibert, 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell.

PRIZE PAPER.

There are two points in the characteristics of a good nurse which must be exercised in the "putting up" of specimens of whatever kind, namely, scrupulous cleanliness and the use of a cultivated power of observation; that of watching the patient closely, and without his knowledge.

If both these are not used serious trouble may occur; the doctor may be handicapped in his work of diagnosis, and the patient may suffer from wrong treatment for his disease.

The receptacles for specimens of either urine, sputum, or fæces must be *perfectly clean;* in fact, in some cases they should be rendered sterile by boiling. N.B.—Not by the addition of antiseptic lotions.

A word as to the method employed to clean these.

The receptacle, made of whatever material—glass, porcelain, or enamel ware—should never be washed, after use, in boiling or even very hot water, as this will cause coagulation of any blood, pus, or albumin which may be present in any of the three specimens required for testing.

Cold or lukewarm water should be used until it is quite certain there are none of these adhering to the sides of the receptacle.

The most common shape used for urine is conical, made of glass, and with a lip to facilitate the pouring of small quantities into a limited space. This particular shape also allows any deposit—as, for instance, pus—to be more readily seen.

If it is to be a catheter specimen, then the usual aseptic precautions must be taken with regard to patient and doctor or nurse.

Urines may be put up either as quantitive specimens (24 hourly) daily, or after each micturition, as in the case of hæmaturia, or after the administration of methylene blue, but each must be plainly labelled accordingly.

Before being transferred to the receptacle from which the examination is to be made a sterile glass rod should be used to stir up the urine and allow any sediment to be more evenly distributed in it. Great care must be taken to watch that no foreign matter finds its way into the specimen, such as blood, caused by a self-inflicted wound—not an unknown incident in the case of malingerers.

Sputum.—The usual receptacle for this is mug-shaped, with a sloping lid and small hole to allow the passage of sputum. This should always be emptied at night and made perfectly clean.

The most perfect specimen is obtained after a fast of four to five hours, unbroken by medicine or the use of gargles or mouthwashes.

Smoking, too, should be temporarily stopped, as the sputum will then be free from any accumulation of nicotine. Watch must be kept to see that the patient does not use the receptacle for vomiting, and that the specimen is not rendered useless by the accidental presence of cigarette ash or match ends—not of infrequent occurrence.

It might be noted here that there is a distinct difference between *saliva* and sputum. The tubercle bacillus, for instance, does not as a rule appear in saliva.

Fæces.—Cleanliness is again essential if a satisfactory test, especially where there is evidence of typhoid or dysentery in a ward, is to be obtained.

After attention to a patient the material used should be placed in a separate receiver.

The patient should be encouraged to pass urine separately, and previous to the use of the bed-pan.

A small quantity of fæces may then be obtained and placed in a test-tube.

Certain points are common to the "putting up" of all specimens.

1. The patient should be acquainted with the fact that a specimen is desired for examination, and be warned that the presence of anything foreign will prove of serious importance.

2. Each specimen must be plainly labelled with name of patient, ward, date, reason for examination, and time in the case of urine specimens is frequently required.

3. Disinfectants must never be used, not even in dealing with excreta from patients suffering from infectious diseases, or the germ may be killed, or at least rendered inactive.

4. Specimens should always be fresh, and should be covered, to prevent infection by the scattering of dried particles.

5. If any of the specimens should be intensely offensive, such as the sputum from bronchiectasis, a gargle should be used afterwards.

It must be remembered that great patience may be required, and that many specimens may be needed before some particular germs are found, such as the tubercle bacillus, which is most elusive.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention :—Miss G. L. Sheppard, Miss E. Dolores Hooker, Miss M. Robinson, Miss T. Jenkins, Miss T. MacAlister, Miss M. E. Thorpe.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Describe how you would care for and feed a premature infant.

ROYAL EDINBURGH MENTAL HOSPITAL.

The Hundred and Fourth Annual Report of the Royal Edinburgh Mental Hospital, Morningside, of which Dr. George M. Robertson, F.R.C.P., is Physician Superintendent, was presented at the Statutory Annual Meeting held within the City Chambers on February 26th, the Righ Hon. the Lord Provost in the chair.

Dr. Robertson's report gives an extremely interesting insight into the year's work.

No Increase of Insanity.

He states that there is no evidence that there has been any increase of insanity in the civil population last year. The male admissions appear to be much the same, and there is a decided fall in the number of females. Dr. Robertson reports, with regard to males, he had expected a fall from the withdrawal of so many young adults from the civil population, and that it is to be feared that the strain of modern warfare has resulted in much mental derangement among young soldiers, though fortunately often of a recoverable nature, but these cases are being treated in special hospitals by the military authorities. With regard to the number of women admitted, several have broken down owing to the strain and excitement of unaccustomed war work. It would seem reasonable to infer, seeing that there has been a fall, that the effect of war work has been so far on the whole beneficial, and less injurious than the semi-employed and shut-in lives that many women formerly led.

He expected to see many more cases alleged to be due to bereavement, the result of the war. The righteousness of our cause, and the nobility of character displayed by the youth of our country, have, he believes, softened this blow, and the knowledge that the sacrifices made have not been in vain has proved a consolation. The Zeppelin raid was only responsible for the admission of three cases. Spiritualism is also recorded amongst the causes.

Spiritualism : A Warning.

Dr. Robertson says he feels it to be necessary at this time, as the result of several cases that have come under his care, to utter a note of warning to those who are seeking consolation in their sorrows by practical experiments in the domain of spiritualism. He does not profess to pass any judgment on spiritualism itself, although he has been interested in it for thirty years. He recognizes it is a difficult subject, worthy of patient and unbiassed enquiry by competent investigators. He does not, however, consider that those who are unversed in normal, and particularly in morbid psychology, are qualified investigators, and least of all, that those who are wishing and longing for, and unconsciously expecting certain manifestations from friends they have lost, make reliable observers.

He therefore regards the publication of "Raymond" at this psychological moment as much to be deplored.

He warns those who may possibly inherit a latent tendency to nervous disorders to have nothing to do with practical inquiries of a spiritualistic nature, lest they should awaken this dormant proclivity within their brain.

The War Work of the Institution.

The staffing of the Institution on the male side was, we read, for many months a more anxious problem than that of supplying accommodation for patients. At an early stage the young attendants enlisted most loyally, and after the Military Service Act came into operation, exemption was asked for very few. Fortunately in peace time there had been developed and perfected a system for the employment of female nurses in some of the male wards, and these methods have been extended, so that now nearly one-half of the staff in charge of the male patients consists of women. Without the help of these methods of female care, it would have been quite impossible in the depleted condition of the staff to have nursed such large numbers of senile, infirm, and hospital cases as have been sent to them.

Neurasthenic and Insane Soldiers.

Referring to the care and treatment of the large numbers of neurasthenic and insane cases that have been dealt with amongst soldiers during the war, Dr. Robertson says that he entirely sympathised with the public desire, which was given effect to, that soldiers who had become insane on active service should receive a good chance of recovering without the necessity of undergoing the legal process of being certified to be insane, which could not

be avoided if they were to be admitted into ordinary asylums. He hopes that it will yet be found possible to offer the same advantage to the civil population. He sees no insuperable difficulty in a mentally deranged patient being kept under observation and treatment in a special hospital for six months, with a view to cure, if the case be notified to the Board of Control, and medical certificates showing the necessity of the step be granted.

In connection with the care of neurasthenic but not insane soldiers, Dr. Robertson states he observes ill-considered advertisements for subscriptions for hostels, which are doing a public disservice by contrasting unfavourably the useful and excellent work done in asylums, in the advocacy of their own schemes.

He writes :—There is no antagonism between hostels and mental hospitals, as both varieties of establishments are necessary for appropriate cases, and, so far as I know, no case of neurasthenia only has been sent to an asylum. The converse, however, does not hold good, for a neurasthenic officer recently sent to a home found the patient on one side of him suffering from convulsions, and a deranged patient making trenches of his bedding on the other. He would rather have been in a well-appointed mental hospital provided with ample resources of every kind, and good classification.

Thanks to Staff.

In expressing his thanks to the staff, Dr. Robertson says that the two heads of the Nursing Service, Miss Wise and Miss Thyne, have passed through a period of great anxiety owing to the difficulty of keeping together, and training, a staff. Members of the staff are doing valuable work in military hospitals, and one assistant has been promoted Matron of the 1st Scottish Military Hospital.

Dr. Robertson says further, "the work of the officials who have stayed at home has been of a very severe nature. There has been none of the interest and excitement and prestige which is associated with work directly connected with the Army, and yet it has been as valuable and as necessary. It has in many cases been at the sacrifice of their own feelings that they have continued at their posts. It would have been easier to have gone. They have earned our gratitude and thanks."

One of the most striking paragraphs in the report is that which shows that even the stress and strain of war and the anxiety and bereavement caused thereby, there have not been so many mental breakdowns among women as in the pre-war days, when so many had not sufficient occupation.

JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

The following Sisters have been deputed for duty to Home Hospitals :—

V.A.D., Burnham-on-Crouch.—Miss C. E. Cahill.

Victoria Aux. Hosp., Stretford, Manchester.—Miss E. L. Lowe.

Kempston Hosp., Eastbourne.—Miss A. H. Hyde.

Glen Aux. Hosp., Southend-on-Sea.—Miss M. Keaney.

Highland Moors Hosp., Llandrindod.—Miss M. A. Lonegan.

St. Anne's Hall, Caversham.—Miss C. E. Jackson.

Shorne Hill Hosp., Totton, Hants.—Miss M. E. James.

Brooklands, Weybridge.—Miss A. G. Grove

Croxteth Hall, Liverpool.—Miss E. H. Nicholson.

Brookfield Hall, Woodford Green.—Miss L. E. Davis.

Knightshayes Court, Tiverton.—Miss A. H. Williams.

Lund Wood, Barnsley.—Miss S. E. Kitchen.

Hosp. for Officers, Torquay.—Miss S. Carvosso.

Oakland R. X H., Clevedon.—Miss G. M. Westrope.

Fairview Aux. Hosp., Ulverston.—Mrs. Isabel Mellor.

Arnot Hill Hosp., Daybrook.—Miss M. A. W. Allan, Miss E. A. Styles.

Uplyme V.A. Hosp., Lyme Regis.—Miss E. M. Egan.

Michie Hos., 184, Queen's Gate.—Miss H. M. Perkins.

Hosp. Facial Injuries, 24, Norfolk Street, W.—Mrs. L. F. T. Graham.

V.A. Hosp., Clavering Walk, Cooden, Sussex.—Miss B. I. Henderson.

V.A. Hosp., Honiton.—Miss F. L. Smith.

Urmston R. X Hosp., Eastbourne.—Miss E. A. Robinson.

V. A. Hosp., Exmouth.—Mrs. F. Tilbury.

Hosp. for Officers, Park Lane.—Miss M. L. Powell.

Gov. Coloney Hospital, Coventry.—Miss K. E. Skinner, Miss H. Clarke.

Hosp. for Officers, 32, Albert Road, N.W.—Miss C. Harwin.

Star and Garter Hosp., Richmond.—Mrs. A. F. Dodgson.

Red X Hosp., Attleborough.—Miss L. Blackwell.

Temple Newsam Aux. Mil. Hosp., Leeds.—Mrs. Stribling.

Park Hosp., Balsham, Cambs.—Miss M. S. Rae

Massandra Hosp., Weymouth.—Miss R. Mundy, Miss M. M. Ryan.

Abroad.

The following sisters have been deputed for duty abroad :—

Boulogne Head Quarters, No. 1, Le Touquet.—Miss E. S. Little.

No. 9, Calais.—Miss M. S. Todrick.

Brigade Hosp.—Miss D. Eborell.

La Panne.—Mrs. M. H. Green.

NURSING AND THE WAR.

Many of the friends of Miss C. Irene K. Sumner, who knew her as a Sister at the Royal Infirmary, Leicester, and under more exciting circumstances, in Antwerp before and during the bombardment in 1914, will be glad to renew their acquaintance through the picture we are able to publish through the courtesy of the Editor of *The Gentlewoman*. Miss Sumner has had experience of war nursing in France as well as Belgium, and is at present Matron of the Princess Christian Military Hospital, Englefield Green. She is one of the recent recipients of the Royal Red Cross.

MISS SUMNER, R.R.C., MATRON OF PRINCESS CHRISTIAN MILITARY HOSPITAL, ENGLEFIELD GREEN.

Amongst those who have recently been awarded the decoration of the Royal Red Cross (First Class) is Miss Elizabeth Stewart, Matron of the City of London (Military) Hospital, ordinarily the Poor Law Infirmary. Miss Stewart has held the office of Matron in the Guardians' service since 1897, and the *City Press*, by the courtesy of the editor of which we are able to publish our illustration, on page 186, states that she enjoys the regard of every member and officer of the Board. Her capabilities as a matron are of a high order—particularly in the training of nurses; and it is no exaggeration to say that she has been responsible for the efficient training of some hundreds of Poor Law nurses, many of whom have since obtained positions of distinction.

The Assistant Matron, Miss Greig, has also received the Royal Red Cross (Second Class) and at a meeting of the Board of Guardians last week the Chairman referred in appreciative terms to the honour conferred on both ladies.

A Sister writes:—"I think the R.R.C. is a lovely decoration, apart from the honour of it. How I got into the 'shuffle' is a mystery to me, and to others, too, I expect! We spent a happy time when we received it, you know we now all proceed to Marlborough House to be received by H.M. Queen Alexandra. She presented each of us with a copy of 'The Way of the Red Cross' and a photo of herself 'inset' in a War Service Picture.

"Queen Mary wishes to have a photo of each recipient of the R.R.C. in her album, so we received an invitation from Messrs. Bassano. Some courteous man lent us his motor car for the morning which greatly added to the pleasure in its easy way of getting us there and back."

The Royal Red Cross has been awarded to the following ladies—all members of the Canadian Nursing Service—in recognition of their valuable services in connection with the war:—

First Class.

Matrons Miss H. Casault, Miss E. C. Rayside, Miss E. Russell and Miss M. Smith.

Second Class.

Nursing Sisters Miss E. L. Bell, Miss E. Boultbee, Miss C. Cameron, Miss M. Clint, Miss E. Drysdale, Miss M. P. Ellis, Miss M. C. English, Miss H. L. Fowlds, Miss A. M. Gallop, Miss G. A. Gray, Miss R. Harvey, Miss L. Holland, Miss C. Hood, Miss M. Howe, Miss J. Johnstone, Miss M. Macaffee, Miss H. A. MacLaughlin, Miss M. R. Marsh, Miss G. H. Mavety, Miss N. C. McCurdy, Miss G. B. McPherson, Miss M. Motherwell, Miss E. F. Pense, Miss J. Robertson, Miss M. Rose, Miss I. B. Smith, Miss I. D. Strathy, Miss F. H. Wylie, and Miss A. E. Johnston, Sister, Canadian Red Cross, Malta.

The following Australian and New Zealand nurses have been mentioned to the Secretary of State for War for valuable service in hospitals in Great Britain:—Sister C. Anderson, A.R.R.C., N.Z.A.N.S.; Staff Nurse J. MacD. Baxter, A.A.N.S.; Staff Nurse M. B. Beswick, N.Z.A.N.S.; Sister T. G. Dunn, A.A.N.S.; Staff Nurse M. W. Haste, N.Z.A.N.S.; Staff Nurse H. A. J. Hazleton, Q.A.N.S.; Staff Nurse P. G. Herbert, A.A.N.S.; Staff Nurse A. J. Mackay, N.Z.A.N.S.; Sister V. M. K. Maclean, A.R.R.C., N.Z.A.N.S.; Assistant

Matron I. M. McRae, N.Z.A.N.S. ; Staff Nurse G. M. Metherell, N.Z.A.N.S. ; Staff Nurse D. Northcote, A.A.N.S. ; Staff Nurse E. H. O'Reilly, A.A.N.S. ; Head Staff Nurse E. S. Pine, A.A.N.S. ; Staff Nurse E. Popplewell, N.Z.A.N.S. ; Sister W. J. Smith, A.A.N.S. ; E. E. Stucker, V.A.D., N.Z. ; Staff Nurse M. E. L. Thompson, A.A.N.S. ; M. S. L. Thompson, A.A.N.S. ; Acting Sister O. D. Walsh, A.A.N.S ; Staff Nurse A. M. Wilson, A.A.N.S. ; R. M. Wilson, A.A.N.S. ; and Sister A. Wood, N.Z.A.N.S.

The tragedy at the Duchess of Connaught's Hospital, Cliveden, near Maidenhead, when a Canadian soldier lost his life owing to an orderly giving him two tabloids of perchloride of mercury instead of the aspirin tablets ordered, draws attention once again to the necessity of keeping poisons under lock and key, and entirely separate from non-poisonous drugs. In this case the two boxes were kept in the dispensary side by side. The dose of perchloride of mercury is 1-32nd to 1-16th of a grain, whereas the dose administered was 10 grains.

The jury found that the deceased met with his death by taking perchloride of mercury accidentally, and added a rider that greater precautions should be taken in administering such medicines, which should not be left to orderlies to keep and dispense, and that poisons should be labelled and kept in a secret locker. They further expressed the opinion that there had been a certain amount of neglect in the case.

MISS ELIZABETH STEWART, R.R.C., MATRON, CITY OF LONDON (MILITARY) HOSPITAL.

The following interesting letter was received from a grateful patient by a Matron of a hospital near the Belgian front :—

Honourable Missis.—This is a fine day full of sunshine and shrapnel clouds, dozens of aviators taking walks in the blue sky. All the men are busy drying their muddy coats, cleaning rifles and bayonet. I sit outdoors and write letter, an empty beef case being my desk. I would have written earlier to you; however the duty in this muddy clay ground is hard in the winter time and when it happens there is free time one is too tired to enjoy letter writing.

A fortnight ago my Kodak was stolen by a traitorous chap and a week later I discovered the Kodak and the thief. I am proud to tell you I always kept my spirits in their Sunday dress. Since the Roumanian campaign ended so badly for us I have packed up all my troubles in my old bag and become a real philosopher, who can swallow the worst hardships with a happy joke. I do my duty like every private who loves his country and hates the Hun.

Entre acte of an hour. A Belgian bi-moteur was flying far behind the German lines amidst thick black shrapnel clouds, when my friends who were on sentry duty, told me there must be something wrong with the engine. Indeed, the machine was coming down *en vol-plane* and managed to cross the lines on a height of sixty yards. It landed just behind our second line. The two aviators were safe. I saw them afterwards. They took their machine-gun and abandoned their aeroplane, which the Germans began to shell a few minutes later. That is a little war event of which one gets dozens every week. I am now since long accustomed to life in a war sector, the only thing which I have to complain of is the bad organisation of the sanitary service, we can't bath regularly, and we must wait too long to receive our clean clothes. One can't speak now about washing shirts and socks, as it is impossible to get them dried, and it is too cold to bath in the river. When we were —— we got a bath nearly every fortnight, also everybody here is annoyed by a lot of disgusting little beasts.

I have a lot of good friends among the Tommies here and speak English very currently. I've picked up a waggon-load of new words, bad ones as well as good ones; I can swear in English better than the vicar of my village sings his lattin. I am reading regularly the leading articles in the *Times* and *John Bull*. I was awfully pleased to hear that Mr. Lloyd George has to do it now, and I fully believe he will do it quite right.

What do you think of the famous Peace-talk? Nonsense, is not it? I heard Wilson had put his long nose into our business. I am afraid ink will still go up in price.

Yours very respectfully,

H. D.

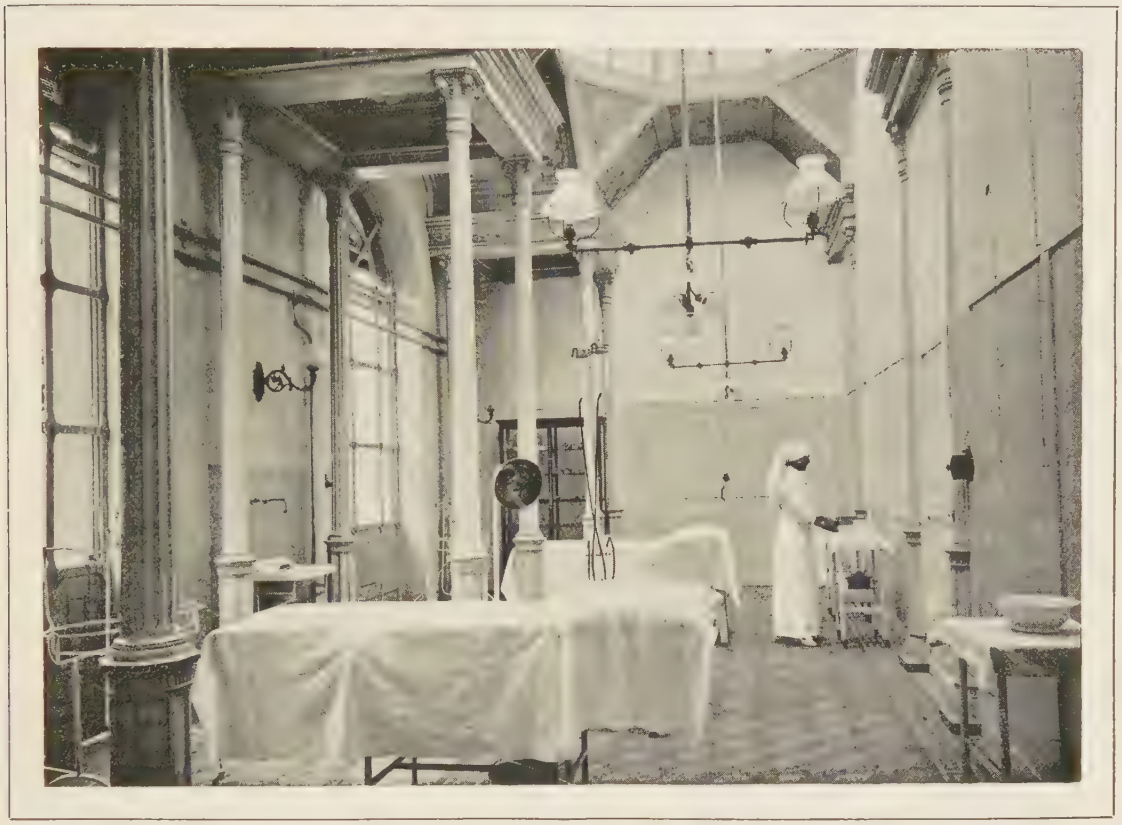
Pro. to Patient in Sanatorium Châlet : " I shall be bringing you a Thermos Flask for to-night."
Patient : " Is it something to spit in, Nurse ? "

Illustrated magazines for the wounded are appealed for by Rev. R. S. Lound, chaplain to the forces, Rawal Pindi Hospital, Amara, Mesopotamia. He writes : " The men are always asking for them, and they get so few."

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

The readers of this journal are familiar with the deep interest in the care of the sick taken by the Queen of Italy, through the reports published in our columns from time to time of the Scuola Convitto Regina Elena at the Policlinico Hospital, Rome, which has been established for the training of Italian girls in modern nursing methods for the last seven years, under an English Matron, Miss Dorothy Snell, and which was able, on the declaration of war, to send trained and certificated Italian nurses to care for the sick and wounded at the front.

The Red Cross Flag now floats over the Quirinal —the Palace of the ruling monarch—and the Palazzo della Regina Margherita, the Palace of the Queen Mother, for both have been turned into hospitals. In each case the Queen has retained a suite of apartments for her own use, and is constantly in the wards, devoting herself to caring for the suffering and consoling the afflicted. By the courtesy of the Editor of the *Ladies' Field*, and the permission of the owner of the photograph, we are able to publish the accompanying illustration of the operating theatre at the Quirinal. Whether in the wards, the theatre, the dispensary, the kitchens, or the bathrooms nothing has been omitted that conduces to efficiency. Silken hangings on the walls have been covered with hygienic materials, but the beauty-loving sons of Italy can feast their eyes on the exquisite decorations and fine pictures, and from their beds can enjoy the glorious view over the Eternal City from the Palace windows.



THE OPERATING THEATRE AT THE QUIRINAL.

The great Red Cross Sale of antiques at Christie's will begin on March 22nd, and the rooms will no doubt be packed with generous buyers.

There is a large and valuable collection of art treasures, china, jewelry, rare books, and manuscripts to be disposed of, and the proceeds of the sale are to be devoted to the relief of British prisoners of war in enemy countries.

Sir Thomas Oliver, the well-known physician, lecturing at Newcastle, mentioned that out of fifty-two consecutive compound fractures treated at the Northumberland War Hospital, all poisoned, not a limb nor a life was lost. Before the war such fractures, he said, almost invariably resulted in death or loss of limb.

The hon. treasurer of Queen Mary's Convalescent Auxiliary Hospitals, Roehampton, acknowledges the sum of £1,000 received from the executive committee of the Saskatchewan Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society to maintain for a year a ward in these hospitals.

Lady George Nevill has opened a hospital at Hove for paralysed and nerve-affected soldiers, not incurable, but liable to become so without special treatment.

The marriage took place in No. 5 Ward of the Sir John Ellerman Hospital, Regent's Park, on Monday, of Lieutenant-Colonel Kennedy to Miss Mona Macquoid. The ward was decorated with arum lilies and white heather. Many officers and friends were present, together with some of the nursing sisters, the resident medical officer, and the matron. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. E. S. Hilliard, Christ Church, Mayfair.

Colonel Kennedy was the first patient admitted to the Sir John Ellerman Hospital, which was opened six weeks ago.

The journal *Les Nouvelles*, of Maastricht, learns from Belgium that conditions there are so bad that an epidemic of typhus has broken out. There have been eighty deaths from this disease in less than two months in the single commune of Bree among a population of 4,000.

What a martyr to duty and patriotism this brave little country has become!

A GERMAN GERM.

Written by a New Zealand soldier, on learning that his aunt in London had contracted German measles while helping to entertain soldiers from the front.

A German germ was born one day,
And speedily it found its way
Into a soldier's haversack,
And there it made its bivouac.

My Auntie Fay, as you all know,
Off to the Soldiers' Club doth go;
And she was there last Xmas Eve
To feed the Tommies home on leave.

Our soldier with his haversack
From muddy France had just come back,
Our German germ, now grown quite fat,
Had shifted to the Tommy's hat.

From there out of his one small eye
My dear old aunt he did espy,
And as she was a-passing by
He hopped on her quite on the sly.

"Ha, ha!" he cried, "this is my place,
A German thinks it no disgrace
To make a poor old lady squirm;
And tho' I'm but a German germ
My reputation is at stake
If I, a chance like this don't take."

He worked quite hard for just a while,
This measly Germ so full of guile.
Now at the Club, Aunt's seen no more.
Carbolic sheet across the door
Prevents the exit for some days
Of this vic-tim of German ways.

R. B. C.

SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

ORGANISED NURSES' SOCIETIES PETITION PARLIAMENT TO BE PERMITTED TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINION CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION OF THEIR OWN PROFESSION.

At a recent Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, the following Resolution was passed unanimously, and the President undertook to send it with a covering letter to Members of Parliament.

COVERING LETTER.

431, Oxford Street, London, W.
February, 1917.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to bring to your notice the enclosed Resolution, passed at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses on the 17th inst.

Speaking for the 4,000 certificated nurses of which this Society is composed, may we hope that you will use your influence to secure that before any Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses is promoted by the Government, our organised Societies of Nurses in England, Scotland, and Ireland may be permitted to express their opinion concerning the organization of their own profession?

Thanking you in anticipation,

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ETHEL G. FENWICK.
President.

RESOLUTION.

"The Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which for many years has been working to obtain the Registration of Nurses by Act of Parliament, but which during the last two Sessions has ceased propaganda and loyally respected the decision of the Prime Minister that no private members' Bill should be brought in during the war, learns that the College of Nursing, Ltd., promoted by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., hopes to induce the Government to introduce a Bill for this purpose.

"The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses respectfully asks therefore that before the Government deals with the question of the State Registration of Nurses the Societies of Nurses associated together for this purpose in the Central Committee may have an opportunity of expressing their opinion on any proposed measure for the Statutory organization of their profession."

A large number of sympathetic replies have been received by the President approving of this eminently reasonable request.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TRAINED NURSES STATE REGISTRATION.

On Wednesday 7th March, the following questions were put :—

Mr. MacCallum Scott asked the Prime Minister whether, before any Bill for the State Registration of trained nurses is introduced, an opportunity will be given to the organised societies of nurses in England, Scotland, and Ireland to make representations to the Government.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Hayes Fisher) said : My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has asked me to reply to this question. Full consideration will be given to any representations made by organized societies of nurses before the Government introduce any Bill for the registration of nurses.

Mr. Dundas White asked : Will they be given an opportunity of presenting their views personally by deputation ?

Mr. Hayes Fisher replied : I will consider that.

Mr. Rendall said : May I ask whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill of this kind ?

Mr. Hayes Fisher said in reply : That is a matter that is still undergoing consideration.

VOX POPULI.

From which questions and replies, though the latter are somewhat non-committal, the organised nurses' societies, the members of which have worked unceasingly for State Registration for so many years—and paid thousands of pounds in promoting the reform—may take heart of grace.

1. The Prime Minister has promised through the Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board that before any Bill for the State Registration of Nurses is introduced by the Government, consideration shall be given to the representations of the organized nurses in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

2. That the Government has under consideration the intention of introducing a Bill for the State Registration of Nurses.

It is the duty therefore of every member of every organized nurses' society which includes State Registration as a plank in its policy to realise her own personal responsibility in this important matter. There must be no shirking of professional responsibility now. Each member can do her duty in the following manner :—

1. She can write the very day she reads this report to the President, Local Government Board, Whitehall, London, S.W., and ask him to be good enough to receive a Deputation when officially petitioned to do so, of representatives of the organized Nurses' Societies to place before him their considered opinion on the question of State Registration of Nurses.

2. She can also write to Members of Parliament and invite their sympathy for the principle of direct representation of the nurses on any Governing Body set up by a Nurses' Registration Act—WHICH IS EMPOWERED TO MAKE THE RULES AND REGULATIONS REGISTERED NURSES WILL HAVE TO OBEY—as provided in the Bill drafted by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses in charge of Major Chapple, M.P.

Don't let nurses delude themselves that they will get a just Bill, unless they work for it. It is no use consoling themselves with the fallacy that the Legislature or the public are palpitating with a desire to benefit them as a class. It is quite otherwise. Never were unblushing exploiters so determined to delude and keep them profitable. By untiring vigilance the profession has been saved from many pi -falls—the Higher Education Scheme, the Directory Bill, the College of Nursing Limited, the effect of which would have been to deprive them of personal liberty and professional independence. We have got to resist now any Bill drafted by employers assuming autocratic powers, and denying to the workers adequate power for their own protection, and we have got to resist with every ounce of energy we possess—or be crushed under the relentless heel of those who for a quarter of a century have denied to trained nurses the right to organize, and think and act for themselves,—and who have not hesitated to support a form of intimidation through the commercial nursing press which is a disgrace to any civilized country—a form of intimidation we shall continue to defy in the future, as we have done in the past.

It is up to the organized nurses to claim a hearing from the Government before it attempts to legislate for them. If we are up and doing with British pluck, energy, and tenacity of purpose, the victory will be ours.

The Prime Minister comes of the people—it is a very lovely people—let him hear the voice of the people and give heed to it.

Personally we believe his heart is "right there."

A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the S.S.R. was held on Thursday, 8th inst. New members were elected and further work in support of a just Bill was planned.

FOR A JUST BILL.

The President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses gratefully acknowleges the following donations :—Miss L. A. Morgan, 10s. ; Miss F. E. Marquardt, 10s. ; Miss E. Ross, 5s. ; Miss V. Thurstan, 5s. ; Miss M. Burr, 5s. ; Miss E. Farrington, 2s. 2d. ; Miss E. Busteed, 2s. 2d. ; Miss M. E. Chesters, 2s. ; Miss C. Heron, 2s.

We are glad to note a very keen interest in this question. Those who wish to join the Society can obtain forms from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W_1.

IRISH NURSES AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION.

It is probable that the Nursing College controversy in Ireland may arrange itself on a national basis—as it is probable that the Medical Faculty as represented by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons will in co-operation with Irish Nurses form a Nursing Board and confer Diplomas on Irish Nurses. We sincerely hope this may be the happy solution to an anomalous situation. It is impossible to contemplate Irish Nurses—or let us hope Scottish Nurses for long—being satisfied to be governed educationally from London. Nothing could be more inelastic and cramping to educational development than the suggestion that one academic institution is to serve the whole British Nursing World—and could only have emanated from the brains of persons suffering from megalomania. That this little coterie of self-elected persons were also to govern the whole profession with a nod and a wink throughout the United Kingdom, without appeal, is preposterous and dangerous, both from the view of educational progress and individual evolution, and we congratulate the Irish Nurses Association on claiming professional responsibility.

Miss Cox-Davies and Miss Rundle sign a letter in the last *Weekly Irish Times* headed "Points for Irish Nurses." They do not think it would serve any useful purpose to reply in further detail to the letters of the Honble. Albinia Brodrick and Miss Beatrice Kent. They write that "All great movements—and we may justly claim the College of Nursing is one—have their irreconcilable opponents. Under these circumstances questions are not always asked with the object of obtaining information, equally the answers when given are quite often only used to form the subject of further controversy."

When we realise that this discourteous statement is addressed by the representatives of a Company of laymen to the most deeply respected professional women in Ireland, whose unselfish devotion to the welfare of their profession is appreciated throughout the world, one cannot congratulate these advocates either on their ethical standards or their good taste.

Moreover we consider the following statement misleading and unwarrantable. "The College of Nursing, in addition to its educational work, is by means of its voluntary register forming (perhaps we should more rightly say has formed) the electorate through which the voice of the worker herself can be heard."

"The worker" has been determinedly excluded by the nominated Council of the College from expressing an opinion on the qualifications for this voluntary register. By what right therefore has it presumed to define our professional electorate? This is the basic fact in relation to the College controversy which Irish Nurses have had the wit to grasp, and which no amount of prolix argument can confuse. Irish Nurses are not to be shooed into the economic compound. A fair field and no favour is their justifiable ambition. We feel sure they will attain it.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LIMITED.

In Forma Pauperis.

We are informed by the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., that they feel they have now reached the stage at which steps should be taken to raise an Endowment Fund for the College.

It is intended that a fund shall be raised in connection with the Endowment Fund for Nurses in ill-health, or who—through no fault of their own—have fallen upon evil days.

A charitable appeal for needy nurses is, of course, more likely to appeal to the public than one for an educational endowment in war time.

We believe a bevy of titled women have the matter under consideration, who have been successful in raising large sums of money for War Charities. The self respecting element in the Nursing Profession naturally bitterly resents being thus utilised *in forma pauperis*, in support of the College scheme—by women who have no right to interfere with their professional affairs.

The Irish Board.

The Secretary of the College sends for publication the following lists of doctors and Matrons nominated to form an Irish Board to govern the nursing profession in Ireland. The majority of the Matrons have formed the active anti-registration party until now—and it goes without saying that not one Sister or independent Nurse has been nominated for office.

Dublin.—Miss Chisholm, Act. Supt., Irish Branch Q.V.J.I.N.; Miss Eddison, Matron, Royal City of Dublin Hospital; Miss Egan, President, Irish Matrons' Assc.; Miss Hill, Matron, Adelaide Hospital; Miss McGivney, Matron, Mater Misericordiæ Hospital; Miss O'Brien, 67, Lower Leeson Street; Miss Phelan, South Dublin Union; Miss Reed, Ivanhoe Nursing Home; Miss Shuter, Ivanhoe Nursing Home; Andrew Beattie, Esq., D.L.; Charles Benson, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.I.; Sir Andrew Horne, M.D.; Alfred R. Parsons, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.P.I.; Geo. Peacocke, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P.I.; John Lumsden, Esq., M.D.

Belfast.—Miss Bostock, Matron, Royal Victoria Hospital; Miss Curtin, Matron, Mater Infirmorum Hospital; Professor Lindsay, M.D., F.R.C.P.

Cork.—Professor Ashley Cummins, M.D., M.Ch.; Arthur Sandford, Esq., M.D.

Waterford.—Miss McDowell, Supt. of Nurses, County Infirmary.

Limerick.—Miss Coffey, Matron, Barrington's Hospital.

The Board is not yet complete.

MEMORANDUM ON THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

BY THE CHAIRMAN AND MATRON OF THE LONDON HOSPITAL.

Lord Knutsford, Chairman of the London Hospital, and Miss Eva C. E. Lückes, the Matron, have each contributed a solo on the subject of the College of Nursing. Now we have a duet, issued by them from the London Hospital, which opens thus

ENTIRE DIFFERENCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES WHICH THE COLLEGE ADVOCATES.

"In answer to many inquiries we have to say that it is with sincere regret that we find ourselves in strong opposition to the College of Nursing, because of an entire difference with the principles which the College advocates. When it was first proposed to establish a College of Nursing we cherished a hope that some sort of scheme might be arrived at, on lines that would advance the best interests of Nurses and Nursing. But that hope was short-lived, for almost immediately after its formation, the College put in the forefront of its programme the very objects which we and so many others have opposed successfully for many years."

The first thing that strikes the reader of this "Memorandum" is the isolation of the writers, and the defection of the "so many others" to whom they refer. The manifestoes from the London Hospital have been wont to be issued with a chorus of signatories—Matrons and others from the majority of the London Hospitals with medical schools attached, and certain provincial hospitals, who have repeatedly affirmed their belief that '*any* system of State Registration would be detrimental to the public and harmful to the nurses themselves,' and it is, of course, State Registration of Nurses which the officials of the London Hospital have opposed for so many years. Now, however, not only have their supporters from other hospitals deserted them, but their own pupils have fallen from grace, witness the fact that the Matrons of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, are members of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and other "Londoners" have declared their adhesion, and are actively working to promote its objects.

CHORUS.

We are ourselves constrained to play the part of chorus to the following paragraph of the Memorandum

"It seems a pity to bring forward controversial questions of long standing at a time when all Hospitals, Training Schools, and Nurses are working under exceptionally high pressure in consequence of the War, and when few have time, or ought not to have time, to consider new organisations."

We are in entire agreement with this view, and are of opinion that it is incompatible with the discharge of their professional duties for Matrons from the provinces to attend fortnightly meetings of the Council of the College, and that they are in a very invidious position if they are merely figure-heads, allowing the Council to act in their name.

The writers assert that "Although the Training Schools go on doing their best to keep up the number of newly Certificated Nurses produced annually the probabilities are that for many years to come, there will not be sufficient Trained Nurses to meet the various needs for them after the War is over.

"In such abnormal conditions," they say, "we find it difficult to understand that it should be deemed necessary, or even desirable, to select the present moment to legislate for the supposed welfare of Trained Nurses and to settle on what lines the education of future Nurses should proceed in normal times. No one can foresee with any certainty how Nursing matters will shape themselves after the war. The advocates of the College think it desirable to press forward their views before the return of the many Nurses who are now serving their Country in various parts of the world."

CHIEF OBJECTS OF THE COLLEGE.

The writers then discuss "the chief objects which the College desires to bring about, and for which it hopes to get a Bill through Parliament" under the following heads—

1st. *The State Registration of Trained Nurses.* To this we have the time-worn objections once again expounded. "It has the insuperable objection of placing Nurses who are good on the same level with those who are indifferent or bad. Nurses with inferior qualifications would feel they had something to gain if they could be stamped with the same Hall-mark as Nurses whose training and personal qualifications are beyond question—the best Nurses have a great deal to lose by having their names placed on a Register with a multitude of others whose claims when they are judged on their own merits are admittedly inferior." Then there is the fallacy that the arguments which apply to the Medical Profession, Dentists and Midwives are not applicable to Nurses.

All four professions stand on exactly the same basis, and in each high moral character and professional skill are required.

The writers appeared to regard the use of the Register to be to afford a list of nurses suitable for private nursing.

All these arguments have been laid before the House of Lords, and before a Select Committee of the House of Commons. In neither instance did they influence the judgment finally expressed, any more than the alternative proposition—that an Official Directory of Nurses should be substituted for a Register—commended itself to the House of Lords when a Bill with that object was brought in by Lord Balfour of Burleigh in 1908. That

House realizing that to be of value a Directory must be based upon a Register, threw out the Nurses' Directory Bill and passed Lord Ampthill's Bill for the State Registration of Nurses. Why waste time in endeavouring to resuscitate a corpse which has long since received decent burial?

2nd. *To secure an Uniform Curriculum of Training.*

With this object the writers also express disagreement. "The Nurses' ranks," they assert, "are filled—and more satisfactorily filled by accepting the right sort of woman from all social classes than by trying to eliminate all who cannot be called highly educated, or who cannot pass a Central Examination."

There is no intention on the part of the promoters of State Registration to discriminate against any class. The intention is that candidates for training shall possess sufficient intelligence and education to enable them to assimilate such practical and theoretical instruction as shall enable them to become safe attendants upon the sick, and that they shall give proof to a central and unbiased authority of having attained that standard.

Lord Knutsford and Miss Lückes once more voice their objection to "State interference," which has been at the root of much of the opposition to State Registration. "Each Hospital," they say, "should be allowed to train its Nurses as it finds it can best do so, and should not be interfered with in this by people who do not know its system from inside."

The day of absolute power of employers in determining the conditions of training and employment of those in their service has passed, and rightly, in almost every trade and profession, the State safeguarding the interests of the employees—and the unlimited power of hospital authorities must cease also.

In regard to the small hospitals, far from "increasing the difficulties they already find in obtaining nurses," we are of opinion that, in affiliation with the larger hospitals, they would find themselves in a better position than ever before.

3rd. *To limit the entrance to the Nursing Profession to one Portal,* i.e., *the passing of a Central Examination under the auspices of the College, for candidates who have complied with such preliminary conditions as the Council of the College deem it desirable to insist upon.*

"If," say Lord Knutsford and Miss Lückes, "the College of Nursing obtains any real measure of success—which yet remains to be proved, for its achievements cannot be measured by its Prospectus or Articles of Association—the Training Schools, by the importance thus attached to Examinations and to theoretical attainments generally, will tend to produce pseudo-scientific Nurses, instead of practical, skilful, unselfish and devoted Nurses. The gradual loss of the latter would be a sad deprivation for the sick and suffering."

So it would; but, although we have had reason to criticise strongly the attempted usurpation by the College of Nursing of the disciplinary functions of the Governing Body for trained nurses without their consent, as well as the definition and maintenance of educational standards for nurses, we are of opinion that a system of higher education for nurses, if carried into effect, would not have the results anticipated by the Chairman and Matron of the London Hospital.

If State Registration is carried out with the help of trained nurses, they will lay much more stress on a high standard of practical work than lay committees have done. We deny that ignorant and stupid women have the monopoly of all the nursing virtues.

POOR LAW MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

Miss Barton, President P.L.M.A., writes that the Association is trying to organize meetings in the provinces to explain especially to Poor Law Nurses about the College of Nursing, and that Miss Rundle would attend and speak and answer questions. Poor Law Matrons wishing to get up meetings should write either to Miss Barton or Miss Alsop, Kensington Infirmary.

We may add that it is the duty of anyone advocating the College scheme to place the draft Bye-Laws of the proposed Royal British College of Nursing before the audience and explain (1) Why eight members of the Council can expel a nurse from membership, (2) Why the laity are eligible, as members, to vote without paying any fee, as the nurses do, for the upkeep of the Corporation; and (3) Why 100 members are compelled to get one-fourth of the Council to sign their requisition for a Special Meeting when the President, and also the Council of forty-five may "order" such a meeting at will. Full information should also be given concerning the "private contract" entered into between the R.B.N.A. Executive and the Hon. Officers of the College.

We are informed by nurses who have attended meetings in support of the College that such vital points are never mentioned.

PRESENTATION.

A very large and representative gathering of friends of Miss K. V. Macintyre, late Matron of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, took place recently at the Empress Hall, Wigan, when the Chairman of the Board of Management (Mr. A. M. Lamb, J.P.), members of the Board, and of the medical and nursing staffs met to express to Miss Macintyre the respect and affection in which she is held and to offer her tangible evidence of their regard. The proceedings were of an informal character, but most friendly and cordial. The Rev. W. Kingsbury voiced the appreciation of those present of Miss Macintyre's valuable work for the Infirmary for the last 26 years, specially referring to her success as head of the nurse

training school, and the value of her lectures to the nurses. The nurses trained under her had secured positions of responsibility in all parts of the world, and Nurse Fletcher had recently been awarded the Royal Red Cross of the First Class.

Mr. James Brown who was Chairman of the Board of Management when Miss Macintyre was appointed Matron in 1890 spoke of her wonderful ability, and made special mention of her efforts to secure the most favourable and healthy conditions for those working under her.

A beautiful bouquet was then presented to Miss Macintyre and Miss Ursula Brown asked her acceptance of a gold chain purse containing a substantial cheque from her many friends. Dr. Monks on behalf of the medical and surgical staff also presented an illuminated address, which he read, and a cheque to mark the appreciation and respect in which the guest of honour had been held by the staff during the long period in which she had been connected with the Infirmary.

On rising to reply, Miss Macintyre received an ovation. She warmly thanked those present for the honour they had done her that afternoon, and for the very substantial way in which they had emphasised it.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

Warneford Hospital, Leamington.—Miss Lillian Georgina Rutter, Acting Matron of the City of London Hospital, Victoria Park, London, has been unanimously appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Free Hospital and at the City of London Hospital, and has since been Ward Sister at Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital, Alton; Night Sister, City of London Hospital, Victoria Park; Night Sister, London Fever Hospital; and Assistant Matron at the Military Hospital, Ripon. There were four selected candidates who appeared before the Committee.

Infectious Hospital and Sanatorium, Sittingbourne.—Miss Helen Wilson Anderson has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Preston; and at Ruchill Fever Hospital, Glasgow; and at present holds a position under the Conway and Penmaenmaur Joint Hospital Board.

SECOND ASSISTANT MATRON.

Union Infirmary, Hope, Pendleton, near Manchester.—Miss Broadbridge has been appointed Second Assistant Matron and Masseuse at the Withington Hospitals, and has been Sister and Third Assistant Matron and Masseuse at the Booth Hall Infirmary.

NIGHT SISTER.

Royal Albert Edward Infirmary and Dispensary, Wigan.—Miss M. E. Dale has been appointed Night Sister at the Victoria Hospital, Keighley. She has been Ward Sister at the Children's Hospital, Edinburgh, Sister at the Royal Infirmary, Oldham, and for the last two years has had experience of Military Nursing.

MATERNITY SISTER.

Warkworth House Institution, Isleworth. — Miss Florence A. Selby has been appointed Maternity Sister. She was trained at the Birmingham Infirmary, and has held the positions of Ward Sister, Night Sister, Superintendent of Children's Block, and Assistant Matron, at Kingston Infirmary. She has also had experience of District Nursing in Abergavenny, and has held the position of Health Visitor at Bishop Stortford.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE.

Staff Nurse Miss Constance M. Pearce is placed on retired pay on account of ill-health contracted on active service, December 29th, 1916.

THE PASSING BELL.

Full military honours were accorded to the late Miss Anna Madeline Shaw, for two years a nurse at one of the Cheltenham hospitals for wounded soldiers. She was the daughter of the late Rev. John Hall Shaw, formerly of Cheltenham, but many years vicar of Ventnor. Fifty wounded soldiers formed a guard of honour, and the Army Service Corps provided a firing party and buglers.

A SAINTED LADY.

Profound sorrow has been caused not only in this country, but in Serbia, by the tragic death of Mrs. Harley, the sister of Lord French, on March 6th, at Monastir. Mrs. Harley had made the cause of the Serbians her own, and tireless, smiling and cheerful, this white-haired lady moved amongst them, bringing help to the necessitous population for whom, since the recapture of Monastir, she had opened a public kitchen in order that the poor and the orphans might be fed. She was assisted by her youngest daughter, another being engaged in hospital work at Salonika.

Mrs. Harley was sitting at a window in her quarters when she was struck by a fragment of a shrapnel shell, and was found by her daughter lying on the ground. The official Serbian statement says: "Medical aid was at once given, and everything possible was done to preserve the precious life of this noble daughter of the great humanitarian British people who has fallen a victim to Bulgarian barbarity while engaged in the noble humanitarian duty which she accomplished with supreme self-sacrifice and the purest Christian love."

The Serbian Government has sent its condolences to Miss Harley and to Lord French, and the Crown Prince has telegraphed a sympathetic message to Lord French. The Serbian people wished "this Sainted Lady" to be buried in their land, and although the funeral took place at Salonika, it is hoped that at the end of the war she may rest amongst those for whom she sacrificed her life.

NURSING ECHOES.

By the courtesy of Mrs. H. J. Tennant, Director of the Women's Section of National Service, a box at the Albert Hall Meeting on Saturday, March 17th, has been sent to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, to be placed at the disposal conjointly of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland and the Matrons' Council. This means that although, numerically, the seats are limited, the self-governing organizations of Matrons and Trained Nurses receive the recognition which is their due.

The Annual Meeting of the East London Nursing Society will be held on Tuesday, March 20th, at 34, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W., by kind invitation of Lord and Lady Glenconner. The former will take the Chair, and amongst the speakers will be the Bishop of London and Dr. D. L. Thomas, Medical Officer of Health for Stepney.

At a recent Meeting of the Committee of Management of the Mount Vernon Hospital it was decided to increase the salaries of the Nursing Staff of the Institution. The Committee have had the matter under consideration for some time, feeling especially in regard to Probationer Nurses that a more liberal scale of payment should be adopted. They have accordingly increased the scale of salaries of the whole of the staff. In future Sisters will be paid £40 rising to £45 per annum; Staff Nurses £20 per annum, and Probationer Nurses £12 for the first year and £15 for the second year, with a war bonus in each case of £5 per annum.

The Annual Meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association is to be held on May 14th at the Mansion House, when the Lord Mayor will take the Chair.

At the recent Annual Meeting of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary a very hopeful note was struck. It had been well supported. During the year, it was stated, Mr. John W. Hughes gave £4,500 for the purpose of enabling the committee to buy the property at the corner of Pembroke Place and Ashton Street. The acquisition of this site would make it possible to use to the utmost advantage the land already belonging to the infirmary, when circumstances permitted of the erection of the new Nurses' Home, so urgently needed.

The Bishop of Liverpool said the infirmary was doing a splendid work in the present; it was not merely working in Liverpool, but in France, where its nurses and surgeons were performing great things. The infirmary was also looking forward to the future, and was setting an example by doing the best it could to battle with the awful scourge of venereal disease.

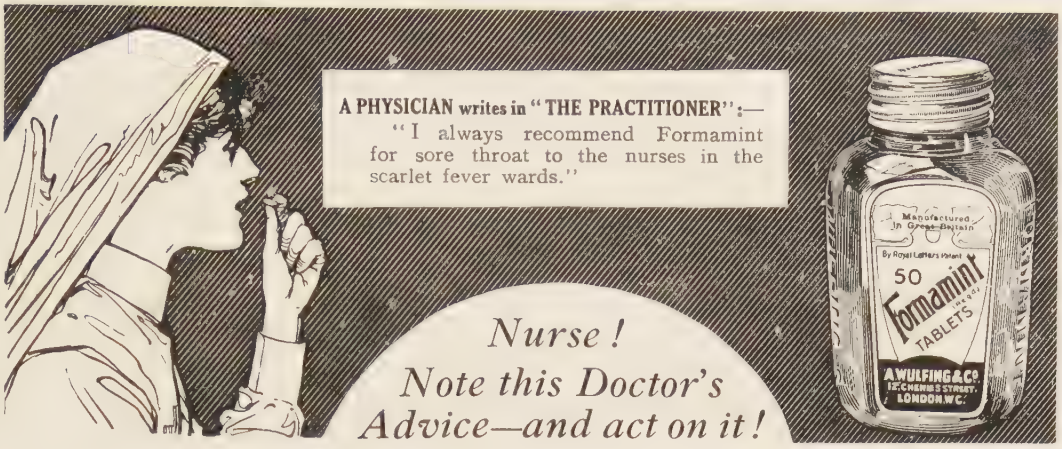
It would appear that Liverpool may emulate the example of the "London," St. Bartholomew's and Charing Cross Hospitals, and pay higher salaries to nurses in the principal hospitals. Wealthy Liverpool is very proud of its hospitals, and will no doubt object to playing second fiddle so far as nurses' remuneration is concerned. Indeed, it will be very difficult in the near future to obtain well-educated probationers, unless the salaries of trained nurses are substantially increased. The Censor's office, commercial houses, and munition works are coming into direct competition with the hospitals.

The annual report of the Bedford District Nursing Association, affiliated to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, is a fine record, the Inspector reports on the work of the four nurses as most excellent, and their nursing care earns the hearty gratitude of their patients. The Committee express their thanks to the nurses for their punctual and devoted discharge of their duties.

A report from the Senior Nurse is included, which shows that the total number of visits paid by the nurses during the year was 14,645. The nurses are constantly caring for the parents, wives, and children of the sailors and soldiers who are fighting for us, and also for discharged soldiers when necessary.

The long list of subscribers seems to be particularly well organized, their names appearing under the roads, &c., in which they reside, which have evidently been most thoroughly canvassed. This is not surprising when we learn that that most indefatigable worker, Mrs. Alfred Paine, is Chairman of the House Committee. Most welcome help has been given to the nurses for their patients in the way of nutritious food by the Nursing Branch of the St. John's Ambulance Association, of which Mrs. Alfred Paine is Hon. Superintendent, and the Ladies' Committee of the Bedfordshire Hospital Guild supply invalid diet to their patients who are under the nurses' care.

The American Journal of Nursing always gives us some happy and uplifting thoughts. The current number reports "that the Board of Nurse Examiners of the State of Virginia



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Agents for the well-known "Benduble" Shoes.

(which is also the registration authority and is composed of registered nurses) has adopted the plan of beginning the State Examination with an address by some prominent nurse, who deals with such subjects as the value of organization, the concrete things accomplished by their state association, the Red Cross, our national organisations and our national journal. This address is intended to arouse the professional pride of those young women, and is of special value to the applicants who come from schools where the Superintendent has been lax in teaching ethics and current nursing history."

How different to the patriarchial attitude adopted towards nurses in this country, where they are usually treated like children, discouraged from thinking for themselves, and where a question concerning their own affairs is considered an impertinence. As for ethics, we have none—and of current nursing history the persons who are attempting to assume control over us know nothing. We well remember Lord Knutsford, when referring to Miss Nightingale, saying someone had exclaimed, upon the mention of her name, "Oh! yes. Didn't she do something with a lifeboat?" Shades of Grace Darling!

Speaking to a meeting of nurses recently Mrs. Fenwick urged all present to read up the history of Nursing Organization. It is to be found in the 57 volumes of The British Journal of Nursing, and beginning in 1888 covers a period of thirty years' thrilling interest to those who love truth and desire to assimilate its lessons. This is what Miss Lavinia Dock did when she became Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, and before she helped to write that monumental work, "A History of Nursing," which the majority of nurses in this country do not know exists.

If we ever get a Board of Nurse Examiners in this reactionary old country let us hope a knowledge of the history of Nursing may find a place on the Question Paper.

Miss Annie W. Goodrich is, as always, adding to her professional activities. She has recently assumed the direction of the nursing staff at the Henry Street Settlement, New York. Miss Goodrich will continue to act as assistant professor in the Department of Nursing and Health at Teachers' College, and will not change her place of residence, but she will spend part of her time in supervision of the nursing activities at the Settlement, thus bringing a still closer co-operation between the theoretical side of public health work, as taught at Teachers' College, and the practical application of it at the Nurses' Settlement.

READ THIS.

A TEMPTING OFFER.

The British Journal of Nursing is the only weekly journal for nurses owned, controlled, and edited by Trained Nurses, and is therefore the only professional Nursing journal. You can't teach what you do not know, and the laity have no more right to teach the Science of Nursing, or to voice the opinions of our profession, than they have to assume the same responsibility towards the medical profession. Under lay control commercial influence is paramount. We may leave it at that.

The *B.J.N.* is a cult—a professional stimulant, and hundreds of nurses have subscribed to it for twenty years. Its *clientèle* realise that its ethical standards, and fighting force, are assets beyond price, and we have no doubt that to raise its price in the open market from one penny to twopence weekly will make little difference to its circulation. This we regret to be compelled to do, owing to the cost of labour and paper. For two weeks, however, we intend to offer The British Journal of Nursing to those who pay an Annual Subscription of 6s. 6d. at the usual price, after which date the Journal will be charged 2d. from the Newsagents, and at the rate of 10s. 10d. to subscribers in the United Kingdom, 2s. 9d. for 13 weeks. All those who wish to avail themselves of this offer should send 6s. 6d. without delay to the Manager, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1., as it will greatly facilitate the organization of production and delivery.

NO QUACKERY.

We are glad to note that the Bill "to prevent the treatment of venereal disease otherwise than by duly qualified medical practitioners, and to control the supply of remedies therefor," introduced by Lord Rhondda, President of the Local Government Board into the House of Lords, on March 6th on behalf of the Government met with a very friendly reception. It embodies a most necessary social reform, and is short and effective. It prohibits (1) the direct or indirect treatment, for reward, of any person for venereal disease, the prescription of any remedy, or the offering of any advice, except by a duly qualified medical practitioner, and (2) the sale in any area in which the Act is in operation of any drug, or medicinal or other preparation as a remedy for venereal disease, unless supplied on the written prescription of a doctor, for the patient concerned. Contravention of any of the provisions of this section render the offender liable, on conviction on indictment to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, or on summary conviction to a fine of £100 and imprisonment with hard labour for six months.

THE ONE NEW HAT.

Economy in all things is the keynote of life just now to every patriotic woman, but a certain amount of expenditure is essential. Most women, for instance, members of the nursing profession included, will not get through the coming season without purchasing one new hat. The question is, where to do so, so as to combine economy with taste. The problem is solved for those who deal with Mills, Ltd., 296, Regent Street, W. The partners in this firm, Mesdames Ida Mills and Annette Venner, were for many years with Mme. Emelie, of 246, Regent Street. They are now showing their spring and early summer model hats, and we are not surprised to learn that amongst their clientèle are many well-known members of the nursing profession, for their models are charming, their prices most moderate, and they make a point of suiting the style of individual customers. Their establishment is on the Portland Place side of Oxford Circus, next to the Regent Street Post Office. We recommend an early visit.

WHAT FOODS FEED US.

Now that the appeal of the Food Controller to the nation to ration itself voluntarily has brought home to us the urgent necessity for economy in dealing with the food supply, the problem of re-arranging the dietary of both patients and staff in hospitals, infirmaries, and other institutions is one causing anxious consideration to Matrons and Home Sisters. To keep within the limit, and yet to build up the debilitated bodies of the sick, and to maintain the staff in health, is one which requires not only organization and the prevention of waste —through which much can be achieved—but a knowledge of food values. This we are sorry to admit is not a branch of study which has been pursued to any great extent by the majority of nurses. They will therefore do well to make up for lost time, and we should advise them to procure and study some of the literature supplied by Mr. Eustace Miles, a specialist on this question. His advice is "Do not 'give up meat and eat the rest.' Begin rightly." Having regard to the seriousness of the issues involved, we can scarcely take too much pains to do so. A line to Mr. Eustace Miles at 40, Chandos Street, Charing Cross, W.C., mentioning this JOURNAL, and enclosing 2d. for postage, will bring a free leaflet on "The Most Successful Meat Substitutes" and "The Most Successful Quick and Easy Recipes," which we feel sure will be found helpful.

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"A STUDENT IN ARMS."

In "A Student in Arms," a book of rare literary merit, whose author, Mr. Donald Hankey, was, alas! killed in action in October last, the author gives his experience of hospital life when invalided home from the Front.

"One can only speak from personal observation. One place differs from another. But from what the writer has seen and experienced, he judges that the one thing which a wounded soldier cannot expect is to be treated as a man. He is sent to 'Blighty.' He arrives at a hospital. His chief pleasure, oddly enough, lies in the prospect of seeing something of his relations and friends. He is surprised and indignant when he finds that he is only allowed to see visitors of his own choice, two at a time, for two hours, twice a week. On the other five days he has to put up with the licensed visitors of the hospital. They may be very elevating and amiable people; but he feels no considerable interest in them. He is still further dismayed when he discovers that, under no circumstances may he visit his home while he is a patient. He may go to tea with Lady Snooks, or the Duchess of Downshire, but not with his wife and mother. The writer's neighbour in the hospital ward was a case in point. He was a man of about thirty, who, at the outbreak of war, was holding a responsible position in Sydney. He had all the self-respect which is typical of the Colonial of even a few years' standing. He was receiving ten minutes' electrical treatment per diem, with a view to restoring sensation to one of his hands; otherwise, he was able-bodied. His father lived within twenty minutes' walk of the hospital, but not only was he not allowed to live at home and attend as an out-patient, he was not even allowed to visit his home. He was told that the treatment would be continued for six months, and meanwhile he must be a prisoner in the hospital. At the V.A.D. Convalescent Home, to which the writer was subsequently transferred and which was regulated from the hospital, there were several married men whose homes were within reach. They were absolutely forbidden to visit them. When we did leave the grounds, it had to be in the conspicuous garb of a military convalescent, that all men might stare, and under the escort of a nurse. Many a quiet sensible fellow preferred not to go out at all."

Many people regret that they cannot do more for the men at the Front. Here is a note of the pleasure given by a small deed of kindness regularly performed:—

"Every week there used to come to the writer an envelope containing a gift most exquisitely subtle—a soft handkerchief wrapped round a sprig of verbena or of lavender. It was so out of keeping with the circumstances of one's life, so like a breath of fragrance from another world, that its preciousness was exquisite—unspeakable. It brought with it memories of the deep quiet of old

gardens, the prim brightness of herbaceous borders, and all things dainty and most utterly removed from the sordid business of trench warfare. It was the source of most intimate, personal delight . . . it was, paradoxically enough, at once a consolation and an irritant; a narcotic bringing sweet dreams of the unattainable, and a tonic stimulating inconvenient faculties into a new and insistent life."

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"THE WARDS IN WAR TIME."*

The merit of this book lies partly in its obviously sincere attempt faithfully to set down the facts which came under the experience of this Red Cross Pro, while serving in a home hospital. She is evidently a person of considerable skill in divining human weaknesses and to this purpose she directs her chief attention. We are bound to say the nursing staff does not strike us as being composed of the type of women we should select for the purpose, and we feel sure that the authoritative mode of address which these ladies use to the men would be neither popular nor desirable. But, no doubt, they had another side to their characters which is not depicted. We can hardly credit the following incident. There was a missing shirt which had been fruitlessly sought for :—

"All this time a frail invalid, tucked away in a corner bed, had remained unnoticed. His pallor and unobtrusiveness gave him a look as if he were not long for this world.

"'Have you changed your shirt, Patsey?' asked the Staff Nurse.

"A faint murmur accompanied by a feeble fumbling, and a white corner was drawn from beneath his pillow.

"'I have been asleep,' he began, slowly; but he said no more, for with a bound the Staff Nurse was beside him shaking his frail body vigorously in her excitement."

Is this incident indicative of a hostile attitude to the trained nurse or is it told designedly? We have heard sometimes of the harsh treatment of the wounded by nurses, but we prefer to think that such instances are rare.

The description of the Sister bustling into the ward "like the Lord High Executioner" rather favours the former conclusion.

The most amusing portion of the book is to be found in Part 2, which deals with the V.A.D. Hospital. For three long years before the war the detachment had toiled at the game of make-believe, and now their hopes were about to be realised. They had laboured over text-books and spent hours over dummy figures. They had measured imaginary medicines for imaginary patients, and every one had felt a thrill of pride when a real boy scout had been persuaded as his good deed for the day to have his face washed. Now the first patients were on the point of arriving and all was excitement.

"'See if the stretchers are ready,' ordered the commandant, 'and prepare to form a squad.' But before there was time for further orders the startling truth began to dawn upon the bystanders, as the men began to jump lightly over the tail-board of the ambulance.

"'They told us it was a grand Convalescent we were coming to,' said the Sergeant-Major, genially.

"'This is a hospital, not a convalescent home,' said the Commandant icily." There were but nine patients and the staff totalled seventeen.

Night duty was the time apparently for all the noisiest work to be performed. "After a round of the wards to see if anyone was asleep, the nurses set to work to polish all the brass taps and door handles they could find. Such was the enthusiasm of the V.A.D.'s at this period that the brasses were cleaned no less than three times a day. Miss Groggs, a little later, made a round of the wards, resolutely flashing her electric torch into the faces of her patients, to make quite sure no one was awake. So effective were her methods that at the end of her round usually no one was asleep."

They then proceeded to turn out the sitting-room.

"'They are at it again,' said the Sergeant-Major, roused from a pleasant slumber by a resounding crash.

"'And soon we shall have the searchlight in our faces again. What price life in the trenches, boys?' said Jones.

"'Men, there must be silence in the wards,' said Miss Groggs, putting a fraction of her head round the door.

"For an hour silence reigned and the patients endeavoured to secure some much-needed sleep, but the indefatigable nurses re-appeared, armed with thermometers and proceeded to take temperatures.

"When they had once more disappeared into the kitchen Kilbride remarked: 'I suppose she has gone to write in the report, 'Patients slept well.'"

H. H.

* By A Red Cross Pro. London: Blackwood & Son. 5s. net.

CONQUISTADORES.

Death, in our Day, by putting off his cloak
Of lonely terror, wherewith he went decked,
Has lost his old inscrutable aspect,
And treads familiar among fearless folk
Who greet him with a smile. His thunder-stroke
Is met by flashing eyes and limbs erect:
They only groan who suffer Time's neglect,
And bow, less willing, to Life's wearier yoke.

These proud adventurers beyond the bourne
Go, glad like swimmers breasting a strong sea,
Into the sun's light and winds blowing free.
The cliffs of home rise up to meet the morn;
True dreams come to them from the "Gates of Horn,"
And they have sight of larger Life than we.

—From "A Sonnet-Sequence."
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Prize Competition.

Prize Competition Coupon

March 17th, 1917

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RULES FOR COMPETITION.

1. Any reader of The British Journal of Nursing may compete for the prize of **FIVE SHILLINGS** which will be paid to the **writer of the best article of from 300 to 750 words on the following subject—"Describe how you would care for and feed a premature infant."**

The dated Coupon for March 17th, published on this page, must be cut out by the Competitor, and enclosed with the article she sends, with her full name and address inserted. The number of words of article to be written on left hand top corner of first page. This answer should be posted not later than **March 17th,** to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole St., London, W., marked on the envelope "Prize Competition." **The Name of the Winner of the Prize and the Prize Article will appear on March 24th, 1917.**

2. The Editor's decision must be accepted by each Competitor as final and unquestionable.

The Midwife.

NORTH ISLINGTON MATERNITY CENTRE AND SCHOOL FOR MOTHERS.

This centre at 8 and 9, Manor Park Gardens, Holloway, N., has been established for over three years, and its success may be estimated from the fact that it started with nine mothers and babies and at the present time there are more than nine hundred on the books. Last week marked a new era in its history when a small ward for infant in-patients, started by a Committee of American ladies, was opened. A very charming little ward it is. It contains only five cots and this number is to be the maximum. It is hoped by providing ample air space to obviate the usual difficulty of satisfactorily nursing young infants together. Our illustration shows a group in the ward which was opened by Mrs. Page, the wife of the American Ambassador.

There is a staff of seven nurses under the fully-trained and experienced superintendent, Miss Brownsdon, who holds the certificate of the Lewisham Infirmary, and is a certified midwife. She also holds the certificate of a Health Visitor, and has been the head of an L.C.C. School Treatment Centre. It is largely owing to her personality that the success of the Centre is due. We understand that the Mothers are extraordinarily attached to the ladies belonging to this school, and this is often touchingly expressed in the letters and notes they receive. Lately, owing to whooping cough, a mother and baby were compelled to be absent. The father wrote to explain this and headed his letter, "*re* your baby 221a."

There is an ante-natal side of this work, and it of course requires extraordinary tact and sympathy successfully to develop it.

There are nine infant clinics held weekly, and the medical staff is composed wholly of women. Another important feature is the needlework instruction. The women bring their own new or old material and are taught by skilled teachers to fashion the particular garment that they require. Mrs. W. B. Keen, the founder of the Centre, is deeply interested in the work, to which she devotes a very great deal of time and energy. The whole house bears the stamp of efficiency, and better still the atmosphere of love and devotion to its object, than which there can be no greater, or more worthy, or more attractive.

Probationer Sister. Mrs. Turner, wife of the Bishop of Islington, Chairman of Centre. Miss Brownsdon, superintendent. Mrs. W. B. Keen, Hon. Treasurer. Mrs. Walter Burns, Chairman Infant Welfare Committee, A.W.C. Mrs. Loughlin, Wife of Secretary American Embassy. Viscountess Harcourt. Mrs. Curtis Brown, Chairman American Women's Club.

OPENING OF WARD FOR INFANTS, ISLINGTON MATERNITY CENTRE.

NATIONAL BABY WEEK.

A meeting to discuss the above scheme was held on Friday, March 7th, at the Armitage Hall, Great Portland Street, W., presided over by Sir Robert Morant, and supported by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Dr. Eric Pritchard, Dr. Murray Leslie, Mrs. Gomm, Mrs. H. B. Irving,

Miss Halford, and other well-known persons interested in the important work of Child Welfare.

July 1st–7th has been chosen for a campaign throughout the British Isles, having for its object "to bring home to every indididual the urgent necessity of saving the thousands of babies who die from preventable causes every year, and to arouse the individual and civic conscience relating to the welfare of mothers and babies." The "Baby Week" is primarily for educational and propaganda purposes.

The Chairman said that, though many persons might object to booming, they must put away their dislike in this instance and do their best to make this important question public.

Mrs. Gomm gave an outline of the methods proposed, and commented on the difficulties of the undertaking at the present time. The shortage of money, paper, &c. Much must be done by word of mouth. They proposed to tack on to existing organisations and make their objects known through them — through the mayors, through the schools and through them to the parents, through mothers' meetings, through the Churches. It was proposed to give lectures to parents.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand referred to the low mortality rate of infants in New Zealand, as contrasted with America. This was partly due to Lady Plunkett's organization of nurses The financial side there was augmented by Government, which added £1 4s. to every £1 subscribed. The good result of this work was warmly recognised and appreciated by the Government, and had the honour of being referred to in the Governor's speech, which marked it as a subject of great importance. He considered any neglect or indifference to this subject as simply criminal.

Mr. Ernest Williams of the Federation of Brotherhoods stated that their Federation had decided to concentrate on Infant Welfare. "First things first," he said, and he recommended for perusal "The Call of the Cradle" a pamphlet drawn up by his Committee.

Mrs. H. B. Irving made a stirring and impressive appeal on behalf of the unmarried mothers and illegitimate children. "We had come" she said "to the parting of the ways. It was absolutely criminal to separate the mother and child. Institutions should be started to deal with this need. Workhouse nurseries full of bottle-fed babies should be compelled to give up their contents. They were cared for by half experienced or wholly inexperienced nurses. The death-rate of these poor law children was horrifying. She commented on the advantages of climate and air space for infants in New Zealand, and said that housing conditions in this country must be greatly improved before any appreciable reduction in the mortality could be achieved. The Borough Councils had been effecting economies by abolishing water carts and dust collection, they had shut baths and washhouses. These actions should be protested against.

We hear that National Baby Week is already assured of very great success.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

At the recent annual meeting of Governors of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Road, W., it was reported that there had been a large increase in the number of patients admitted to the Wards in 1916, namely, 2,075 as compared with 1817 in 1915; and 2,058 had been attended at home by the hospital midwives. Of the in-patients, 407 and of the out-patients 911 were the wives of soldiers and sailors. In order to cope with the increasing work of the ante-natal department, a new (temporary) out-patient department had been opened adjoining the hospital, and a physician (Miss Frances M. Huxley, M.D.) had been appointed in charge. An infant consultation centre was also being opened and a physician, Miss Margaret G. Thackrah, had been appointed in charge. The number of emergency cases admitted had been greater than ever. Last year there were 183, many of them being admitted in a grave condition and suffering from severe complications.

The work had been carried on under difficult conditions, owing to shortage of nurses. The training school had, however, well maintained its reputation, and only one candidate had failed to pass the Central Midwives' Board Examination out of 113 candidates.

The Ladies' Association continued to give most valuable assistance. In addition to providing all the linen for the hospital, to the value of £267, the Association had been able to contribute £500 to the hospital funds. The chairman made a strong appeal for liberal support, to enable the committee to pay off the balance (nearly £2,000) of the debt which had accumulated, and to meet the cost of maintenance during the current year.

A special meeting of the Central Midwives Board—Sir Francis Champneys presiding—to consider charges against certified midwives, was held at Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Tuesday, March 13th, with the following results :—

Struck off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.—Elizabeth Larcombe (No. 11119), Jane Ledzinsky (No. 3323), Charlotte Louisa Moxon (No. 1598), Mary Parkes (No. 2966), Clara Ann Silver (No. 6301), Emily Smith (No. 17521), Louisa Alice White (No. 34333).

Adjourned, Reports in Three and Six Months.—Martha Baker (No. 39293), Mary Ann Haigh (No. 1627), Mary Ann John (No. 25605), Mary Ellen Robinson (No. 31909).

The first lecture of the advanced course on Infant Care arranged by the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, was given by Lady Barrett, M.D., M.S., on March 9th, at the College of Ambulance, 3, Vere Street, W. The lecture, which was on "The Development of the Child before Birth," was most instructive and lucid.

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"In all the cases in which I tried it, the women not only expressed themselves as much stronger, but looked much better and gained in weight at the rate of about four to five pounds a week."—DR. FELDMAN, *Lecturer in Midwifery and Hygiene for the London County Council.*

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Further information on this and every subject connected with the use of gas in Hospitals, Nursing Homes, etc., can be obtained on application to the Secretary, The British Commercial Gas Association, 47, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

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